REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending.

The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter has been added. If the Examiner should disagree, however, it is respectfully requested that the challenged limitation be pointed out with particularity in the next Action so support may be cited in response.

A statement claiming priority to parent applications has been added. Informalities are corrected. Sequence identifiers have been added to the specification and claims.

Attached is a Form PTO-1449 listing documents cited during the international phase. As provided by 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h), no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all possible material information. Furthermore, no inference should be made that this information or the cited references are prior art merely because they have been submitted for consideration. Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures, as well as the return of a copy of the Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials per M.P.E.P. § 609, are earnestly solicited.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

Gary R. Tanigawa Reg. No. 43,180

GRT:alb

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714 Telephone:(703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100